

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: S. HIRANO, et al.  
Serial No: 10/589,988  
Filed: AUGUST 18, 2006  
Title: METHOD OF FRICTION STIR-SPOT WELDING AND  
WELDING APPARATUS  
Group AU: 1793  
Examiner: Devang R. Patel  
Confirm. No: 2470  
Allowed: **AUGUST 7, 2009**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 AND 1.98**

**Mail Stop: AMEND – FEE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

October 29, 2009

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicants' duty of disclosure, enclosed please find a copy of an Official Action issued on October 20, 2009, in connection with a corresponding Japanese patent application, together with a partial English translation thereof. Also enclosed is a copy of a document cited in this enclosed Official Action, together with an English abstract of this cited document. Further enclosed is a Form PTO/SB/08A, listing the enclosed documents.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted subsequent to issuance of the Notice of Allowance mailed August 7, 2009, but prior to payment of the Issue Fee. For satisfying requirements of 37 CFR 1.97(d), the fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed, and the following Statement is made under 37 CFR 1.97(e):

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

To the extent that the enclosed documents are not in English, it is respectfully submitted that requirements of 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) are satisfied by the enclosed partial English translation of the enclosed Official Action, and/or by the enclosed English abstract of the document cited in this enclosed Official Action.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all applicable requirements of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 have been satisfied, in connection with present submission of the enclosed documents. Accordingly, consideration of the enclosed documents; and, subsequent thereto, issuance of a U.S. patent based upon the above-identified application in due course, are respectfully requested.

Please charge any shortage of fees due in connection with the filing of this paper to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (case No. 520.46379X00), or credit any excess fees paid to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

**ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP**

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